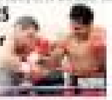
■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Breaking a leg against all odds

■ WORLD / A6
1,400 buried alive in Guatemala mudslide

■ NEWS / A2
Proposed change to Charter would limit military role

■ SPORTS / A25

Pacquiao brother stuns former IBF champion

Frog Festival croaks to noisy start in Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

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website: www.inq7.net

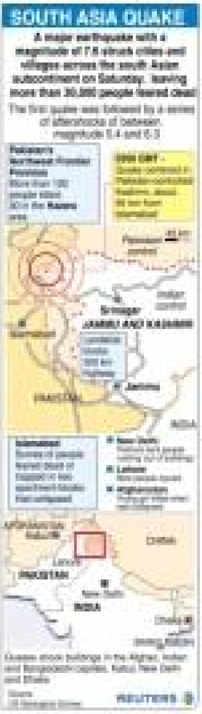
Holding hands, kissing during Mass spark debate

By Christine F. Bagares



'Like Judgment Day'

Quake death toll hits 30,000 in Kashmir



ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Mountains seemed to tumble, buildings and houses crashed in heaps of dust, and Pakistani villager Fazal Elahi thought it was the end of the world.


SORROW KNOWS NO AGE

US Embassy denies hand in RP crisis

By Volt Contreras

PNP cracks down on destabilizers

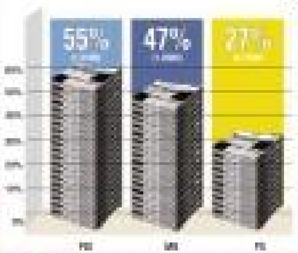
By Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, IN another step aimed at enforcing the government's calibrated preemptive response policy, ...

Shallow quakes tend to cause greater damage

THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE SUSTAINED in South Asia's massive earthquake was at least partly due to the fact that it struck relatively close to the surface, according to seismologists.

PDI still most read newspaper, says poll



FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR SINCE the survey went nationwide, the Philippine Daily Inquirer was the most read broadsheet in the country, according to the poll conducted by Nielsen Media Research.

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FrontPage

New Charter would limit AFP role

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES would no longer be the "protector of the people and the state" under the proposed Constitution to be debated upon in plenary session by the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

[illegible]

Bali bombers elude captors in Indonesia, RP—NY Times

[illegible]

Al-Qaida-trained

[illegible]

Khadaffy in Maguindanao

[illegible]

Consultants cost gov't ₱1.2B last year, says solon

More religious want GMA out



CPR to stay, says Gonzalez

Cheaper to train docs than soldiers—Recto

Christmas comes early for tourism personnel

Holding hands …

No ban

Kissing loved ones



KERMIT, EAT YOUR HEART OUT

Frog Festival croaks …

PDI still most read newspaper, says poll

[illegible]

Upper and middle classes

[illegible]

Reading habit

[illegible]

Youth readership program

[illegible]

Debates

[illegible]

2bU!

[illegible]

The WORLD

1,400 buried alive in Guatemala mudslide

GUATEMALA CITY—A FRANTIC SEARCH FOR ABOUT 1,400 PEOPLE believed to be buried alive by a mudslide in Guatemala was to continue Sunday as the death toll from massive floods throughout Central America and Mexico rose to a staggering 618.





Taiwan-driven APEC program strives to bridge digital divide



MESSAGE



A Glance at Taiwan







Taiwan- Philippines Relations

Romania, Turkey report new bird flu outbreaks



WorldBriefs

Poles vote for new president

Australian airport scare

Everest not so high

4 Britons hurt in attack

'Possessed' Cambodians

US-bound Cubans

Merkel may yet lead Germany



PHOTO taken Aug. 19, 1981 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Il (left) sitting with his son, Jong-nam.

Speculation rife Kim may anoint son as successor

SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres

Pacquiao brod stuns ex-world champion



BOBBY Pacquiao lands a punch to the face of Carlos Hernandez of El Salvador in the third round of their super featherweight bout in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday. AP PHOTO

BOBBY PACQUIAO FINALLY STEPPED OUT OF HIS popular brother's shadow yesterday, hacking out a split decision victory over ex-IBF super featherweight champion Carlos "Famoso" Hernandez in their 10-round bout at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

A southpaw like his brother Manny, the younger Pacquiao started well in the opening round then followed it up with a big second round where he knocked down Hernandez with a left straight.

The knockdown may have spelled the difference for the Filipino, who faded in the late rounds from a heavy body barrage by the veteran fighter from El Salvador.

Judges Duane Ford and Chuck Giampa scored it 95-93 and 95-94, respectively, for

PACQUIAO/A11

Jenny stays in touch with leaders

AUBURN, CALIFORNIA — Jennifer Rosales fired a solid 4-under par 67 Saturday and kept her place among the front runners after three rounds of the Longs Drugs Challenge.

[illegible]

Cabagnot sparks SLR; Red Bull nips Alaska



Rematch looms for Bobby Pacquiao

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

Tuazon, Cruz share Sletha tilt limelight

Thais too much for RP spikers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THAILAND, USING ONLY REMNANTS OF ITS Southeast Asian Games champion team, still displayed enough sharpness in overpowering the Philippines, 25-15, 25-18, 25-12, last night, to sweep the Shakey's Invitational volleyball championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

The only Southeast Asian qualifier to the elite World Grand Prix tournament, Thailand asserted its superiority over the Filipinas, who waged a gallant fight before their rabid supporters.

Thitikorn Pleumjit, one of four players from the 2003 SEAG team who will be seeing action again here next month, scattered 20 points and shattered the RP defense and the locals' composure with 14 sledgehammer spikes.

The RP belles, especially Michelle Carolino, Roxanne Pimentel and Cherry Rose Macatangay, gave it their all, but the faster Thais simply deflected many of their scoring attempts.

Macatangay later sprained her left ring finger after a futile bid to stop the match-ending spike of Sanomsang Armrat.

"We failed to achieve our goal, but at least we found out what we are lacking," said RP coach Ramil de Jesus. "I think there is still time to correct our weakness."

The Philippines finished with a 1-2 record to wind up third, behind Indonesia which had a 2-1 slate. Myanmar was winless in three games.

Pleumjit, Nokpaitra Norsk, Khan An Nawaman and Tomkorn Nootman humbled RP's floor defense with excellent placements, challenged their receivers with powerful jump serves, and fended off their attacks almost at will.

The only time the Filipinas found themselves ahead was at 14-12 lead in the second set.

Pleumjit was later named MVP of the series while Norsk claimed the best attacker plum. RP skipper Pimentel was adjudged the best blocker, while RP libero Sharmain Miles Penano bagged the best receiver award. Thais Wanna Buakaew and Nootman were best digger and setter, respectively, and Indonesia's Nurjanah Siti was best scorer.



Que, Rosales end up 5th

KUALA LUMPUR—ANGELO QUE AND GERard Rosales of the Philippines could only produce another two-under-par 70 in the foursomes Sunday to finish fifth at the end of the World Cup qualifier at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club.

Singapore and Chinese Taipei earned the two slots to the Algarve World Cup in Portugal on Nov. 17-20 by tying for first with 19-under 269 totals.

Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing, the leader in the first three rounds, combined for a 71 while Wang Ter-chang and Chang Tse-peng closed with an impressive 68.

Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchant and Prayad Marksaeng, the week's favorites, shot a 67 but finished a shot behind at 270, while Malaysians Danny Chia and Iain Steel wound up fourth at 272 after a 73. The Filipinos, who had earlier rounds of 66-70-67, had a 273 total.



RP Compak shotgun shoot set

HILLTOP TAYTAY, RIZAL—SPORTING CLAYS Association of the Philippines (SCAP) will hold its 1st Philippine National Compak Sporting Championships on Oct. 14, 15 and 16 at the Team GormaSport shooting range here.

According to SCAP president Richard Gomez, clay shooting is the fastest growing shooting sport in the world today. "It is now getting to be very popular in the country," he says.

The three-day event is expected to be the biggest gathering of local shotgun shooters here.

Each competitor will be shooting 150 clays.

Expected to vie in the tournament supported by Bastan's Brewery, Rudy Project, Swatch, iPod, Caterpillar, Chikka.com and Bench are shooters from Pampanga, Bulacan, Cebu and Manila, including Olympic, Asian and Southeast Asian Games veterans, who have been practicing regularly at the Team GormaSport range, which is only 12 km away from Edsa and Ortigas Avenue.

The grand winner will earn the title of national champion. Competition will be conducted in different classes, including A, B, C, veterans, ladies and 20 gauges. Early registrants will get a P500 discount and special practice rates at the range.

For inquiries, call 0919-8747142, 723-8896 or e-mail scap@pldtdsl.net



Pacquiao brod stuns ex-IBF champion

From page A9

Pacquiao. The third judge, Robert Hoyle, gave it to Hernandez by a wide 97-92, awarding the first two rounds to Pacquiao and the last eight to Hernandez.

"Masaya ang masaya ako sa panalo ni Bobby, at salamat po sa lahat ng sumusuporta sa kapatid ko (I'm very happy for Bobby and I thank all those who supported him)," said an ecstatic Manny Pacquiao in a long-distance interview with the Inquirer after the verdict was announced.

Manny was at ringside along with noted Cebuano promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud to root for his brother, who was also honed by his American trainer Freddie Roach.

Bobby picked up $90,000 as he raised his record to 26 wins against 11 losses and three draws. He came into the fight after winning the WBC Continental Americas title by beating Carlos Navarro last June.

The win also assures Bobby of barging into the top 10 of the WBC and WBO rankings, where Hernandez, now 41-6-1, is currently rated.

Hernandez won the IBF super featherweight title in 2003 but lost it to Erik Morales in a unification bout a year later.

Solven L. Jaganoding, Contributor



Manila Magic scores Tumbok Cup shocker

Salute to FEU's best and brightest



CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

Raikkonen wins Japanese GP

Cardinals sweep Padres



Kim tries again in Samsung golf

SPORTSWATCH

Castillo wins by knockout

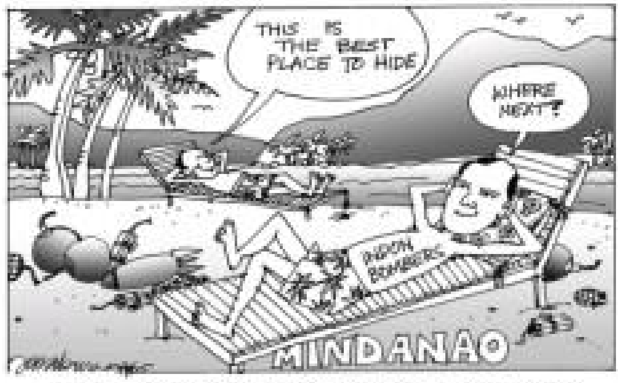
Daly takes lead from Monty

PCAP stag derby today

90 fights in LGBA cockfest

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Opinion



God's phone pals

EDITORIAL

IN A BBC DOCUMENTARY THAT WILL AIR THIS week, two Palestinian leaders disclose a revealing detail from a conversation they had in June 2003 with US President George W. Bush.

Nabil Shaath, at that time the Palestinian foreign minister, was with Mahmoud Abbas, now the Palestinian president. Shaath recalls: "President Bush said to all of us: 'I'm driven with a mission from God. God would tell me, George, go and fight these terrorists in Afghanistan. And I did. And then God would tell me, George, go and end the tyranny in Iraq... And I did.'"

Apparently, the leader of the world's biggest economy and commander in chief of history's mightiest military machine enjoys a direct line to God.

"That's absurd. He's never made such comments," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan huffed. Shaath, for his part, issued an elegant "non-denial" denial. He confirmed what he had told the BBC, but added: "It was really a figure of speech. We felt he was saying that he had a mission, a commitment, his faith in God would inspire him ... rather than [that there was] a metaphysical whisper in his ear."

Ah, the old figure-of-speech dodge. But did Bush, in fact, make such a distinction? In other words, does it really matter whether Bush received his divine mission from the voice of God whispering in his ear or from hours spent on his knees, deep in prayer? In the real world, say, in the Iraq he thought was hiding weapons of mass destruction so potent they constituted a terrorist threat to the United States, the impact would have been the same in either case.

We do not begrudge him his abiding, abundant faith, which by all accounts has given order and purpose to his life. But we do wonder what kind of "God" can justify a war based on false premises, launched in a manner that undermined international institutions and the very community of nations, in a land already soaked in the blood of religious martyrs of all kinds, for a belated purpose inadequately prepared for, and whose failure would lead directly to greater volatility in the already violent Middle East.

This is not the first time, of course, that an American president has stood up after hours of prayer to order the conquest of another land (and, as a consequence, the deaths of untold thousands who did not have the benefit of his religious faith). Over a hundred years ago, William McKinley struggled with the burden of "manifest destiny."

"I thought first we would take only Manila; then Luzon; then other islands perhaps also. I walked the floor of the White House night after night until midnight, and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed [to] Almighty God for light and guidance more than one night. And one night late it came to me this way, that there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace do the very best we could by them, as our fellowmen for whom Christ also died."

It is worth noting that, of the four reasons that justified McKinley's decision to annex the Philippines, the first two had to do with Spain as an enemy and Germany and France as "our commercial rivals in the Orient—that would be bad business."

But invoking God in political matters, believing that God takes sides in political or military conflict, is also bad religion; it is in fact the principal reason why so much blood has been shed in religion's name.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who sees herself as an ally of Bush, is another of God's phone pals. She has reasoned more than once that it was "the Lord" who had put her in power. In her case, however, her connection has a distinctly Filipino twist: She also talks to God's angels.

Two weeks ago, she said she did not fear for her life because she enjoyed the protection of one of God's archangels. "So, when I am here in Iligan and when I return to Malacañang, Saint Michael is still with me."

Again, we do not see any reason to doubt the sincerity of the President's religious beliefs. But we do think that, like Bush, she is making two all-too-common mistakes: She believes the God of her fathers is on her side of the political divide, and she confuses religious redemption for political salvation.

How serious is GMA in curbing corruption?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from last Friday)

[illegible]

Fighting terror

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I FULLY ENDORSE THE ANTITERROR bill Congress has just passed [illegible]

The congressional oversight function

SOUNDING BOARD



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Manila: next target of 'juramentados'?

COMMENTARY

Ernesto Hilario

The mission

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

Fear your own

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

THEY SAID

Tough competition

False prophets

Institutionalizing political robotics

LETTERS

Exotic fares but odious

Young opposition members didn't harangue Speaker JDV

GMA's legacy to Comelec

Across the NATION

‘Candaba likely area for bird flu outbreak’

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—THIS TOWN LOOMS AS A “POTENTIAL ground zero” of a bird flu outbreak in the Philippines if the national government does not move to support preventive measures here, Mayor Jerry Pelayo warned on Sunday.

Factors

Enterprises

Ivan buried amid praises for distinctive journalism



Army claims biggest NPA camp in Mindanao overrun



REGATTA

5 KMP members freed on bail

Legal numbers game looms in Pangasinan archbishop's diocese

Alternative livelihood

Same dog

Franchises

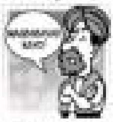
Options for future of CARP farmers up to Congress, GMA

Arrest of former Sarangani execs involved in ₱46-M scam ordered

ROUNDUP

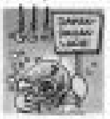
Group wants DA exec retained

Motorcycle-riding robbers robbed



Charcoal seized in Mindoro

Fishery summit in Sorsogon



Cell site burned

d in RP crisis

From page A1

damaging to Ms Arroyo while working for Vice President Dick Cheney in the first uncovered case of spying in the White House.

"Well, of course we would be concerned about any story of this kind that has to do with the national security of the United States," Johnson said in the Cebu interview posted yesterday on the US Embassy website.

Internal US issue

"I think that this sort of thing is very unfortunate but it is a matter for the US legal system. It is an internal issue in the US and it is not something that will affect our foreign relations. We hope and expect that the relationship between the US and the Philippines will continue to thrive as it has in the past," he said.

"Our relationship is very strong and it has been so for a long time. We have a very close relationship, and President Arroyo was in the US recently and received a very warm welcome."

Johnson also brushed aside suspicions raised last week by Archbishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa, Batangas, that an American hand was behind the country's political conflicts.

"The US and the Philippines enjoy very strong relations, and unfounded allegations of this kind are certainly inappropriate and absolutely not correct," Johnson said.

Johnson also pointed out that news reports in the Philippines had carried "distorted portions" of the stolen documents.

He did not cite any media organization. The INQUIRER ran a series of stories on 101 documents that were allegedly pilfered from secret files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Aragoncillo and former Philippine Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino. They then sent the papers by e-mail to opposition forces reportedly plotting to oust Ms Arroyo. The two were arrested last month.

The INQUIRER reports centered on the observations and analysis of the Philippine situation, mostly by Johnson's predecessor, Joseph Mussomeli, who is now US ambassador to Cambodia.

Shallow information

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one of the recipients of the e-mails, has played down the value of the reports, dismissing them as "shallow information."

One leaked paper that was widely used by the Philippine media concerned a US Embassy political officer's characterization of Vice President Noli de Castro as an unfit successor to Ms Arroyo in the event of a successful coup d'etat. De Castro has reacted sharply to this particular report.

Asked to comment on the Mussomeli dossiers, Johnson replied, "these alleged reports are part of the case that has been brought against these two people and at this stage it would not be appropriate to comment on the distorted portions that have been reported in the Philippine press."

Johnson replaced Mussomeli two months ago. According to the embassy, Johnson was to leave Manila this week and was handing over the post to Deputy Chief of Mission Paul Jones.

Also yesterday, retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles said that by calling on the United States to break its silence on the espionage case, administration lawmakers were placing the Arroyo administration in deeper trouble.

Most laughable

"It's like getting a hammer to knock your head off. It's the most laughable thing I've heard," he said in a phone interview.

"They're encouraging the US to come up with a more destabilizing information against Gloria," he said. "All this information shows that the US has given up on Gloria a long time ago."

Representatives Antonio Cuenco, Marcelino Libanan and Monico Puentevella made the call over the weekend, saying that the indictment of Aquino and Aragoncillo should pave the way for the identification of "their masterminds."

The masterminds, they said, should be arrested since the espionage case was part of a coup plot against Ms Arroyo.

Robles, president of the security risk management consultancy RCR, said that the congressmen's call was a no-brainer because there's no Philippine law that penalizes a Filipino from buying information abroad.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who had admitted receiving a couple of personal e-mails from Aquino, shrugged off the congressmen's call.

"I couldn't care a whit. That's much ado about nothing," he said. "Anyone who violated the law should be jailed. No one, including me, is above the law." *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

PNP cracks down on destabilizers

From page A1

Bataoil also said a police officer could arrest his recruiter.

"Personally, I think the act can be considered inciting to sedition, so an arrest can be immediately made," he said. The opinion of the PNP legal service on the issue was being awaited, he said.

If the recruiter is a soldier or policeman, he may be liable for grave misconduct, Bataoil said.

Asked if recruitment was taking place, Bataoil said the PNP needed to protect its ranks in the midst of the continuing attempts to oust Ms Arroyo. "It is but natural," he said.

Recruiters face arrest

On Saturday, the Philippine Army warned that persons attempting to recruit soldiers to join a move to destabilize the government would be arrested.

Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, Army spokesperson, said the Army would invite individuals for questioning or arrest them if there was evidence that recruitment or even bribery to commit acts of violence against troops was going on.

"When they violently resist questioning or arrest, calibrated response or proportionate force shall be applied," he said.

Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Army chief, yesterday said there had been persistent reports of efforts to recruit soldiers to break the chain of command.

"There are reports, and there are verification efforts," Esperon said on the phone. "I cannot tell you more about this because these are operational matters."

A soldier who is actively recruiting a fellow soldier faces immediate arrest and charges of inciting to mutiny or rebellion, a very serious offense in the military, said Esperon. Civilians are also subject to arrest.

Esperon said the destabilization efforts sometimes took the form of text messages, such as the one saying that 80 percent of soldiers were ready to break away from the government.

"These text messages are obviously meant to destabilize and even probably divide the Armed Forces," Esperon said. "They are largely turning out to be disinformation."

Ban on congressional hearings

The PNP guideline also said officers must strictly follow Malacañang's order banning government, military and police officials from appearing in congressional inquiries without the President's approval.

The troops also have been ordered to get a copy of Batas Pambansa No. 880, the law on public assembly, as the "legal basis for the implementation of the calibrated preemptive response," the PNP memo said.

Officers were told to be aware of BP 880 provisions on the filing of applications for rallies or protests five days before the scheduled mass action that mayors should act on within two days. The PNP memo did not say what riot police should do if mayors refuse to grant a permit to rally or to act on it.

The PNP also ordered patrols in areas where car thefts had repeatedly occurred, such as Quezon Avenue, Katipunan and Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, as well as in business and entertainment districts.

850 kids trapped in rubble

Woman gone mad

Cries of children

Relief arrives from all over

Quake was like Judgment Day, says villager



CHILDREN SUFFER THE MOST

Children crushed

National tragedy

Every hour counts

Strongest this century



SURVIVORS of the deadly quake in Pakistan

'City of death'

Only one came home

Shallow quakes tend to cause greater damage

3 quakes a day in RP

Grim scenarios

Moro gulf tsunami

Lost calories make for a good cause



Win-win activity

4 die ...

THE DAILY GOSPEL

2 cops in mauling of rally participants face probe

Swollen creeks carry away child, teener

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Caught in manhole

Makati bakery robbed

Children see color behind bars

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SUERTRES 6 4 6

EZ2 12 22

METRO

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

12 35 36 12 40 46

P63,085,466.40

4 die in Muntinlupa jailbreak



GUARDS secure the gates of the New Bilibid Prison after a breakout yesterday.

By Tara F. Quismundo

A JAILBREAK BROKE THE usually quiet Sunday morning at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City yesterday which ended in the death of four escapees.

NBP and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) officials refused to talk about the breakout but a prison insider told the Inquirer that he saw the bodies of the four escapees.

Sketchy information gathered by the Inquirer source said the jailbreak happened at about 6 a.m. at Building 14 of the NBP maximum security compound.

Meanwhile, a BuCor security officer said, "We really do not know what happened. We just received a text message from our [colleagues] that there was a jailbreak, and that we were needed to help in the chase."

The security officer, who wielded an armalite rifle, said the chase entailed a sweep through a dark and grassy portion of the prison compound, and the adjacent Forest Memorial Park.

He said Muntinlupa police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) members joined the pursuit operations which lasted for hours.

Southern Police District chief Director Wilfredo Garcia, who sent an investigator to speak with the media, cited BuCor officials, identified the escapees as Edgar Moreno, Rolando Pamaos, Julio Deliuro, and Jeb Damaso.

They were believed to be members of the "Happy Go Lucky Gang" in the prison.

The Inquirer source said he went to Building 14 at about 11 a.m. and had no clue that a jailbreak had taken place.

"The situation seemed normal," he said. He only learned of the incident from inmates.

Later, he said that he saw the bodies of three escapees at the NBP Hospital morgue. They were believed to be Moreno, Pamaos and Deliuro.

Afterwards, he saw the body of Damaso, who was reported by a former police officer.

Damaso was reportedly killed when he tried to fight off apprehending officers.

A jail guard identified only as "Guevara" was critically injured and was brought to an undisclosed hospital.

BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie B. Narisma

BIR misses September target by ₱800M

Insurance sector reforms bang

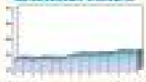
SPECIAL REPORT

Preliminary report misstated by P1.4B

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue again reported a bloated monthly revenue collection, with its tax take for September actually falling short of target by P800 million instead of the earlier reported P600 million in excess collection.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Active trading seen

ATI cuts budget for South Harbor

MFIs bet on LGUs

Tan stakes legal claim on Terminal 3

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Opus Dei mystery

Money-go-round

Heard through the grapevine

BIR misses . . .

Active trading seen

Fixing Philippine agriculture

No Free Lunch



Cielito F. Habito

Persistent problems

DA's role

Incomes, not output

DA steers, LGUs row

Rate increases alarm realtors

LGUs to get loan from ADB

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK is preparing a loan package to strengthen local government units in the country.

Some LGUs have been hard pressed in delivering basic services after the national government devolved functions that are local in nature to local government units.

The move was part of government efforts to ease the lingering fiscal problem, characterized by a gaping budget deficit and huge debts.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said the financing program for LGUs, expected to be implemented next year, would be part of the ADB's $2-billion country assistance program for the Philippines, covering 2005 to 2007.

Michelle L Remo

BUSINESS

RP attracts $499M in FDIs

$663-M boost from offshore banks



ATI cuts . . .

From page B2

to invest under the revised program, Sevilla said about $6 million had been delivered.

ATI president Jerry Rickcord confirmed that the company had asked the PPA's blessing to revise the investment plan, but refused to elaborate.

Sevilla said the company promised to invest more by 2008 once the volume of business in South Harbor increases.

"We have to resolve the issue of the revised investment program first before we would deliberate on ATI's petition to extend the contract," said Sevilla in an interview.

JG Summit, URC to sell RLC shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS OF ROBINSONS Land Corp. (RLC) may sell a portion of their combined 90 percent stake in the hotel and subdivision developer to increase shares traded in the stock market.

RLC president Lance Y. Gokongwei told the Inquirer that the plan, which is still under study by the company's financial advisers, would increase the public float of RLC shares from the current 10 percent.

Gokongwei said JG Summit Holdings Inc., the flagship company of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., food and beverage unit Universal Robina Corp. and other affiliates, hold roughly 90 percent of RLC.

To evaluate its selling options, RLC has appointed Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. as financial adviser.

Asked whether shareholders would use the proceeds to fund the group's takeover of Singapore-based real estate firm United Industrial Corp. Ltd. (UIC), Gokongwei said the two were "independent" transactions.

Separately, RLC also disclosed it was raising its dividends to shareholders to 40 percent of the company's consolidated net income from the current 30 percent.

G & W [illegible]

[illegible]

FORTUNE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT

[illegible]

[illegible]

New rates saved firms P754M

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE THAN 350 customers of the National Power Corp. cut their electricity costs by P754 million from November 2004 to August 2005 due to the state firm's time-of-use (TOU) charging scheme.

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

[illegible]



One way to Charter change

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Hernando C. Gonzalez

C. Luzon road project gets boost

Gov't to tap more ODAs next year

By Michelle V. Remo

DMCI vying for Calaca

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Insurance ...

'Better connections'

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Associate Editor Lito B. Zulueta

LIFESTYLE



Three new plays provide reassuring indication that the last quarter of the year remains a prolific, resourceful time for local theater

[illegible] and Paolo Rodriguez in Tanghalang Pilipino's [illegible]

Breaking a leg against all odds

By Gibbs Cadiz

THOUGH HARDLY NOTICED, a [illegible] wonder of the times we live in is how alive the country's performing arts are despite [illegible] problems.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Breaking a leg against all odds

Milestone



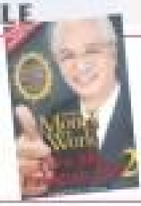
Ferocious acting



Visual feast

Guitar concert

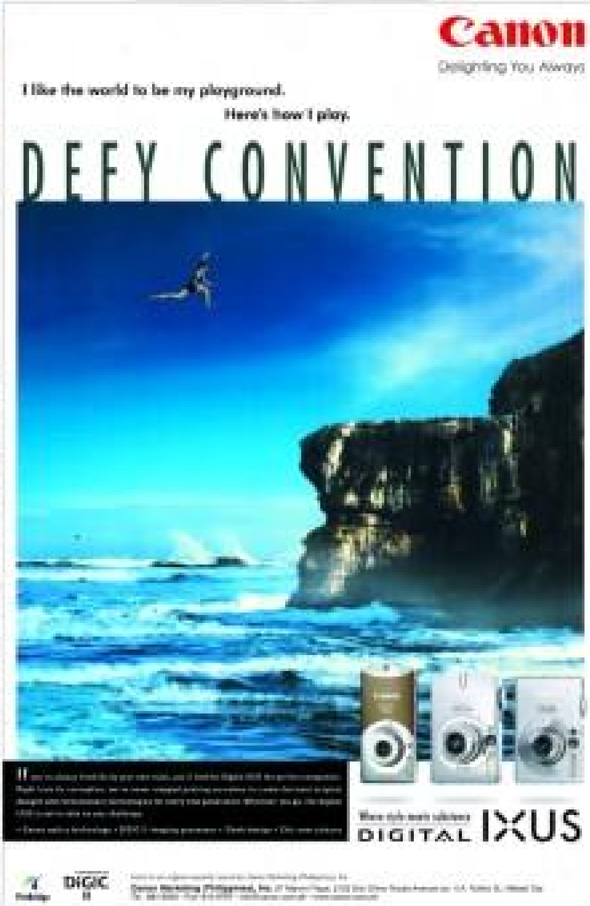






YOJI Yamada's "Hidden Blade," the opening film of Cinemanila 2005

Cinemanila's lineup of films







SANG-SOO IM'S "The President's Last Bang"

Cinemanila's lineup of films

From page C1

USA), by Ang Lee. Awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice International Film Festival 2005. A new powerful story of two young men (played by Hollywood stars Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal), a Wyoming ranch hand and a rodeo cowboy who meet in the summer of 1963 in the harsh, high grasslands of contemporary Wyoming and form an unorthodox yet life-long bond, by turns ecstatic, bitter and conflicted.

"Better Luck Tomorrow" (2004, USA), by Justin Lin. Never underestimate an overachiever. Produced by MTV Films, "Better Luck Tomorrow" tells the story of Ben, the perfect Asian-American high school teen. His life takes a sudden turn as he and his friends tumble into a downward spiral of excitement, excess, fun and lurking danger.

"Dear Wendy" (2005, Denmark), by Thomas Vinterberg. A story about a young loner Dick (Jamie Bell) in the poor mining town of Estherslope. When he happens upon a small handgun one day, he finds himself strangely drawn to it, despite his fervent pacifist views. Together with his newfound partner, he soon mobilizes the other young outcasts in the town to join him in a secret pacifist club—until they find themselves in a predicament where rules might have to be broken.

"Color Blossoms" (2004, Hong Kong), by Yonfan. Set in present-day Hong Kong, "Color Blossoms" tells the story of a love affair with sado-masochistic and voyeuristic elements to explore themes of desire, suffering, innocence and seduction.

"Taegukgi" (2004, Korea), by Je-gyu Kang. A drama about the fate of brothers forced to fight in the Korean War. Jin-Tae and his brother Jin-Seok, are young men who suddenly find themselves catapulted into a bloody world so different from their quiet, rural lives.

"War Photographer" (2001, Switzerland), by Christian Frei. In one of the world's countless crisis areas, surrounded by suffering, death, violence and chaos, photographer James Nachtwey searches for the picture he thinks he can publish. A film about a committed, shy man, who is considered one of the bravest and most important war photographers of our time.

"The President's Last Bang" (2005, Korea), by Sang-soo Im. The black comedy recreates a private party held at the president's secret quarters on Oct. 26, 1979, where Kim Jae-kyu, then chief of the Korea Central Intelligence Agency shot and killed the president. The film was heavily censored in Korea, drawing massive protests from Korean filmmakers and freedom of speech activists.

Other titles to anticipate include [illegible] "Mondovino," Mohamed Asli's "In Casablanca Angels Don't Fly" and the re-screening of Cinemanila classics such as Fernando Meirelles' "City of God", Niki Caro's "Whale Rider" and [illegible] "[illegible]."

The 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival, presented by the City of Manila and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, runs Oct. 12-25 at SM and Robinsons cinemas in Manila and at selected Metro Manila theaters.

LIFESTYLE



THE CORAL regeneration structure from Cagayan de Oro casts a spider-like concrete structure underwater.



SUBMERGED for two years, the structure gives rise to coral growth.

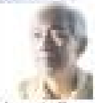
Holcim awards sustainable construction projects in Asia Pacific



"Clan Settlement Regeneration in Hangzhou, China," the gold winner, mixes heritage architecture with new structures to revitalize inner cities.

Philippines wins silver in international architecture contest

PRIDE OF PLACE



Augusto F. Villalon

HOLCIM, THE MULTINATIONAL behind the local brands Union, Eacel, Promisan and Wall Right Cements, is a new name in Philippine industry but not around the world. Established in 1912 in Switzerland, the multinational company is the globe's largest cement producer, manufacturing cement in more than 70 countries.

The Holcim Foundation runs parallel with the company's global operations. Its purpose is to inspire and encourage sustainability in architecture and environment.

Sustainability is a fluid concept. Some find social aspects pressing, while to others it is the environment that takes priority. Is it sustainable to build replaceable buildings that are designed to be demolished to make room for the new? Or should we design buildings to serve their purpose for as long as possible, and then reuse them for new purposes?

Innovation

Entries focused on innovation to achieve sustainability, with community participation, natural-resource management, and cost-effectiveness. Above all, each project improved the conditions of the locality where it was constructed.

Of about 1,000 entries submitted from all over Asia-Pacific region, China won the gold and $100,000. The Philippines garnered the silver and $50,000. The bronze and $25,000 went to Japan.

The gold, silver and bronze winners from the Asia Pacific region have a chance to compete against the top three winners in the Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Middle East-Africa regional competitions. The grand prize will be awarded in April 2006 in Bangkok; it is worth [illegible].

Of three Acknowledgement Awards given, two went to China and one to India.

Two Encouragement Awards were given to China, and another to the Philippines.

The Asia-Pacific Gold was awarded to the design for a "Clan Settlement's Regeneration in Hangzhou, China," an innovative urban regeneration project responding to the need to rejuvenate aging Chinese cities. The scheme integrates new housing and other community urban spaces within existing neighborhoods without the need of wholesale demolition or replacement of heritage structures.

By revitalizing old structures, using local materials, and returning to simple construction methods, the cost-effective project respects the living traditions of the city proving that heritage is an asset to upgrading decayed urban environments.

Coral regeneration

An outstanding Philippine project by Diamond Marketing, a Cagayan de Oro team composed of [illegible], Roland Rodrigues, [illegible] and Leonard Allecho, "Concrete Substrates for Accelerated Coral Restoration" won the Silver Award.

"No coral, no fish," stated Allecho, a marine biologist, when asked to summarize the pressing need for coral regeneration in the Philippines which receives massive damage to coral and marine threats livelihood to many small coastal fishing communities.

The team developed a simple, affordable and easy-to-construct system for regenerating coral. L-shaped concrete prisms are cast on shore and then attached around a submerged central pylon. Live coral is attached to the spider-like structure called [illegible] by its designers. As quickly as two years later, the regeneration of coral and marine life is dramatic.

The modest concrete structure, biologically compatible with [illegible] present in cement, offers a low-cost solution to the imperative need for coral regeneration.

The bronze winner from Japan, "Air Soil: Housing Renovation in Hiroshima," improves outdated living conditions in the inner city by renovating existing buildings rather than insisting on new construction, taking the enlightened view that urban recycling is benefit.

The aesthetics of graphic design





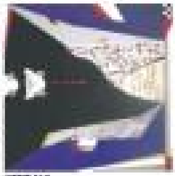
Artists unite for Christmas cards













Philippines

Kulay artists at Hues, Barredo at Ayala, Amoncio at Fernando Artes

VISUAL ARTS







SCULPTOR Gabriel Barredo